

2004 APPROVED WORK PLAN
for the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

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Approved Work Plan

The legislative council has appointed an interim committee to address economic development and telecommunications issues and opportunities each year for at least the past decade. The committee proposes to focus this year on the status of implementing legislation enacted in recent years, especially in rural development and telecommunications. Several initiatives in recent years have been funded or bills enacted on which the committee wants to receive progress reports. They include:

- (1) workforce development and in-plant training;
- (2) business incubators in New Mexico;
- (3) marketing efforts by New Mexico;
- (4) the E-government MAGPortal of the taxation and revenue department;
- (5) individual development accounts; and
- (6) alternative financing (payday lending).

Additionally, the committee proposes to receive progress reports on reform of the public capital funding process and its input on economic development.

The committee also wants to receive testimony on conditions in various business sectors, such as the arts, mining, dairies, nuclear energy and small business. On rural affairs, the committee anticipates hearing testimony on the impact of new septic tank regulations that may affect rural communities. Finally, some members of the committee are concerned about the potential effect in New Mexico of outsourcing jobs to Asia.